

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939,

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH  
OF BLANDFORD FORUM.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Blandford

In a letter dated July 19th 1940 from the Ministry of Health I have been instructed as follows :-

"In view of the increased pressure of work in the Public Health departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy of paper the Minister considers that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939. They may be type written if desired and should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from the war, outbreaks of infectious disease and any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health."

Statistics are to be preserved but not included in this interim report.

Since nothing of any great urgency affecting the public health occurred during 1939 my report will be very brief indeed.

During the second half of the year the population of the Town was greatly increased, first by the labour force employed on the construction of the Camp and later by billeted troops. Fears were felt that the health of the town might suffer from (1) overcrowding, (2) importation of infectious diseases and (3) strain on the sanitary services of the Town such as the water supply and the sewerage works.

These fears were not realised. There were no indications that the public health was in any way affected. For a short time the sewage disposal plant showed some signs of being overtaxed, but this condition was overcome.

Fewer infectious diseases than usual were notified during the year and there were no epidemics.

The Council's schemes for housing improvements have unfortunately had to be postponed during the war.

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Medical Officer of Health.



